

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Microphone not turned on immediately.) ...to the Chamber for this afternoon's business. Roll call is in progress.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: With a quorum present, anything for the record?

CLERK: I have nothing for the record, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. As previously announced, we'll begin this afternoon's business with the discussion of LB 773 on special order. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, 773 was a bill that was introduced by the Speaker for the Governor. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on February 2, Mr. President. It was referred to the Revenue Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File by the Revenue Committee. I do have committee amendments pending by the Revenue Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Chairman Johnson, would you care to discuss the committee amendments.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, we will begin our debate on 773 with the committee amendments. The committee amendments are relatively simple uncomplicated amendments. What the committee amendments to Governor Orr's tax bill do are these. Number one, the committee amendments actually put rates into her tax bill. Her tax bill did not have tax rates in it because the Governor intended to do rates through a separate bill, but the committee decided to put tax rates in the bill. The committee amendments drop from the state tax rolls those Nebraskans who would not have to file a federal tax return because they have no federal tax liability. And, again, that committee amendment is basically designed to deal with the poorest of the poor. The committee amendments require the Department of Revenue to cooperate regularly with the Legislature and, more importantly, with the Legislature's fiscal analyst for tax information to allow for revenue projections. The committee amendments spend quite a bit of time dealing with